

# The NICHD Connection

## September 2018

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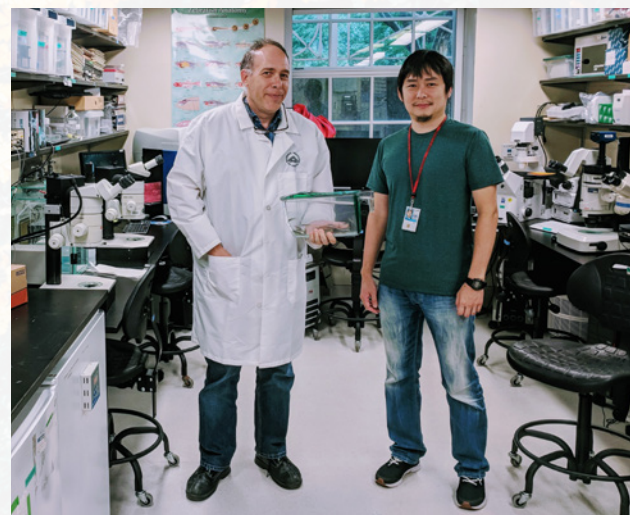
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## Collaborating for Cures: A Physician-Scientist and His Postdoc Go Fishing

By Allison Dennis

In search of cures for childhood disease, researchers in the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) often join forces in creative collaborations. Recently, NICHD Clinical Director Dr. Forbes Porter, Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Wei-Chai Tseng, the NICHD Zebrafish Core, and National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) researchers have taken an important step forward in the discovery of therapeutics for Niemann-Pick type C, which remains a fatal childhood disease.



Dr. Ben Feldman and Dr. Wei-Chia Tseng  
PHOTO BY ALLISON DENNIS

Niemann-Pick type C stems from an inability to metabolize cholesterol and other lipids at the cellular level. The accumulation of excessive amounts of cholesterol is especially consequential for tissues of the liver and spleen, while the accumulation of lipids in brain tissue can lead to severe neurological symptoms, including ataxia, epilepsy, and progressive dementia. Nearly all cases are caused by genetic mutations in the *NPC1* gene, which encodes a membrane protein that is involved in cholesterol and lipid movement within the cell.

Dr. Porter has been key in the search for therapeutics since NIH researchers first described *NPC1* in 1997. In 2013, as part of a collaboration with the NIH's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), he led a Phase I clinical trial to evaluate the drug Hydroxypropyl-beta-cyclodextrin (HPbCD). The drug has since moved on to the Phase 2b/3 clinical efficacy trial phase. While HPbCD may prove an effective tool in combating Niemann-Pick disease, it must be administered monthly and intrathecally, through a spinal tap.

In his hope to expand the repertoire of therapeutics available to patients, Dr. Porter recruited Dr. Tseng, a postdoctoral researcher with a keen knowledge of

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## Letter from the Editor

Please join me in celebrating ***The NICHD Connection's 100<sup>th</sup> issue!*** Let's kick off this party with a good ole' science joke:

A physician-scientist, a postdoctoral fellow, and a zebrafish expert walk into a room. Okay, I lied. This isn't the beginning of a joke; it's the beginning of a beautiful collaboration. The kind of collaboration that can only happen when equal value is given to clinical research, basic science study, and hard-earned technical skill. In honor of our 100<sup>th</sup> issue, we focus on the interplay of clinical and basic sciences that the NICHD exemplifies.

Last month, Dr. Wei-Chia Tseng of the Porter lab published the work of a collaboration creating novel approaches to study and treat Niemann-Pick type C, a childhood disease with few therapy options. In Tseng's work, he combined his knowledge of zebrafish models with the clinical experience of physician-scientists, the genetic knowhow of researchers at the National Human Genome Research Institute, and the resources of the NICHD Zebrafish Core. Check out graduate student Allison Dennis' [feature article on the team's research](#) to learn about their inspiring work.

Clinical research is truly a team effort. For former NICHD postbac Miles Oliva, a research coordinator position fit his desire to participate in research without going the MD or PhD route. He is now

working on a Master of Public Health and has shared his latest experiences in our ["Former Fellow Follow-Up" column](#).

Hopefully you were able to attend a few of the NICHD Office of Education workshops this summer. This August, the always-popular informal lunchtime series highlighted the academic job interview process. Several former fellows shared their thoughts with attendees about their experiences becoming junior faculty—recapped by Dr. Anika Prabhu. If you weren't able to make it, [the recap](#) offers a concise recall of important points.

While we have a lot of exciting reading material in this issue, I encourage you to take a few minutes to check out the most important column this month: [our welcome to new fellows](#), both clinical and postdoctoral. If you see them around campus, be sure to take a minute to say hello. You never know what's possible when great minds come together—until they do.

Happy 100<sup>th</sup> all! Here's to another 100 issues of staying connected.

Your Editor in Chief,  
Shana R. Spindler, PhD

Get connected. Send your questions, comments, and ideas to our editor at [Shana.Spindler@gmail.com](mailto:Shana.Spindler@gmail.com).



## Collaborating for Cures

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zebrafish disease models. The large clutch size of zebrafish would allow the researchers to overcome the limitations of available mouse and feline models, whose small litter size hinders the statistical observations needed for drug development. Dr. Tseng accepted Dr. Porter's invitation and began work with Dr. Benjamin Feldman, head of the NICHD Zebrafish Core.

Previously, NHGRI researchers created a zebrafish mutant lacking the *NPC1* gene using the CRISPR-Cas9 DNA editing technique. To eliminate concerns that the observed phenotype of the NPC1 knockout fish were due to off target CRISPR effects, the team developed a second zebrafish mutant, which together with the NHGRI mutant, would allow Dr. Tseng to evaluate the phenotype arising in the absence of NPC1.

After six months, the core produced the additional NPC1 knockout zebrafish line successfully, and Dr. Tseng began his careful characterization of the NPC1 knockout phenotype. Similar to human patients, the knockout zebrafish displayed early-onset liver disease and would go on to develop neurological impairments later in life. Further investigation revealed that, as expected, the fish's cells were burdened by the excessive accumulation of cholesterol. But could these fish help Dr. Tseng identify potential therapeutics?

Zebrafish have unique mechanosensory organs, called neuromasts, on the surface of their skin, which makes drug delivery easy. Dr. Tseng bathed affected zebrafish larvae in a solution containing the drug HPbCD. Using a fluorescent dye to label the stores of cholesterol inside the neuromast cells, Dr. Tseng was able to demonstrate the elevated accumulation of cholesterol in the knockout fish and subsequent improvement following HPbCD treatment. He could easily visualize the intensity of the glowing red neuromasts under the fish's clear skin using a stereo dissecting microscope, a relatively basic piece of equipment. The average zebrafish clutch size of a hundred embryos allowed Dr. Tseng to obtain the large numbers of larvae he needed for statistical analysis.

Now that Dr. Porter and Dr. Tseng have shown that zebrafish can be an apt replica of the human phenotype, they are interested in pursuing deeper characterization of the model. Even though nonsense mutations can be catastrophic for patients, many sufferers of Niemann-Pick type C have missense mutations that change a single amino acid in the NPC1 membrane

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PHOTO BY JEREMY SWAN



## Collaborating for Cures

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protein. Often, the single amino acid reduces the stability of the NPC1 proteins, leading them to destruction before they can fully accomplish the needs of a cell. For these patients, drugs could be administered to improve the stability of the protein instead of substituting for NPC1's activity or otherwise compensating for the uptake of cholesterol by the cell. Developing a drug to improve mutant NPC1's half life could open the window of possibility for individualized treatment of the disease for many patients.

Dr. Feldman in the Zebrafish Core along with Dr. Steve Coon in the Molecular Genomics Core recently received the Division of Intramural Research (DIR) Director's Investigator Award, enabling a collaboration with the labs of Drs. Forbes Porter, Stephen Kaler, and Joan Marini, in which zebrafish models can be developed to explore various disease-related missense mutations. While the Porter lab will continue to study applications for Niemann-Pick type C therapy, the Kaler lab will investigate neurometabolic disorders, and the Marini lab will utilize the zebrafish to study genetic disorders of bone and extracellular matrix.

In Dr. Tseng's work, he anticipates that the phenotype of the *NPC1* missense mutations will be more subtle than those of the knockout mutants, and he will rely on the expertise he has developed in a clinically-focused lab to characterize the nuances in their phenotypes. But armed with hundreds of translucent fish and the expertise of NICHD physician-scientists, basic science fellows, and superb core facilities, the team is eager to continue their search for improved therapies for children with Niemann-Pick type C.

### WANT TO GET MORE TECHNICAL?

Check out [Dr. Tseng's publication](#) in *Disease Models & Mechanisms*.

Tseng WC, Loeb HE, Pei W, Tsai-Morris CH, Xu L, Cluzeau CV, Wassif CA, Feldman B, Burgess SM, Pavan WJ, Porter FD. (2018). "Modeling Niemann-Pick disease type C1 in zebrafish: a robust platform for *in vivo* screening of candidate therapeutic compounds." *Disease Models & Mechanisms* 11(9):dmm034165.



PHOTO BY URI MANOR, PhD



## Former Fellow Follow-up with Miles Oliva, Research Coordinator

Miles Oliva is a part-time research coordinator at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. At the same time, he is earning a Master of Public Health degree. During his year of postbac study at the NICHD, Miles researched how T-cell receptor signal strength influenced T-cell development in Dr. Paul Love's laboratory. Check out our Former Fellow Follow-up with Miles to learn more about his unique career choices following his postbac.



Miles Oliva

### *Can you tell us a little about the role of a research coordinator?*

A public health research coordinator can work in a clinic, a non-governmental organization (NGO), or a university—anywhere where research is conducted. They work on one or many projects. For each project, alongside the principal investigator (PI), they organize and conduct research.

They collect data through many methods, some of them being outreach, interviewing, or patient files. They develop or maintain a manual of operations and procedures (MOP), which is a document that details the research and its protocols. They can also work with the institutional review boards (IRBs) to make sure the research project stays up to ethical codes.

### *While you were a full-time research coordinator, what was your typical day like?*

Day to day, I conducted community-based research, such as detailed interviews, chart reviews, and patient surveys. I maintained up-to-date research documentation with the IRBs. I assisted with data analysis and modeling. I organized sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing outreach events, and I did STI testing and counseling with our clinic population.

### *What do you find most exciting about being a research coordinator?*

I love becoming an expert on my particular research project. As a coordinator, you must know the ins and outs of your project and be ready for anything that comes up, like an adverse event. Being a coordinator also gave me a chance to collaborate with my PI closely.

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## Former Fellow Follow-up with Miles Oliva

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### ***What do you find most challenging?***

Adapting to a clinic environment was difficult at first. There are a lot of moving parts compared to bench science. The social workers, nurses, physicians, and research staff all have to work together and communicate effectively to make sure everyone can get their jobs done without delaying patients' care.

### ***When did you start thinking about a research coordinator position versus a PhD or MD program following your NICHD postbac fellowship?***

After living in DC for a year and working at the NIH, I participated in the [NIH Academy](#) and worked part time at the DC Center, an LGBT community center. Both of these experiences, along with guidance from my lab supervisor, opened my eyes to job possibilities in community health.

I needed to take more time to understand what I wanted out of a profession in health. Taking a job directly in public health as a research coordinator was a great opportunity.

### ***How did you find the position?***

I directly emailed dozens of PIs at Hopkins and other universities who were doing research I was interested in, and a few with open positions got back to me.

### ***Please describe the application/hiring process. Did it take a long time?***

I emailed my CV to PIs in my interest area around May, went for an in-person interview in June, and was offered a position at Hopkins in July.

### ***Which skill sets from the lab best apply to becoming a research coordinator?***

Bench research required me to keep a precise log of experimental data. This really helped me in knowing how to organize research material and to keep track of day-to-day operations.

### ***What activities or resources at the NIH helped prepare you for your career transition?***

The [NIH Academy](#) and the [Career Services Center](#).

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## Former Fellow Follow-up with Miles Oliva

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***After about two years as a full-time research coordinator, you began a Master of Public Health program. Can you tell us a little about how/why you made that decision and the process involved in joining an MPH program?***

I worked in bench science all throughout undergrad and while at the NIH. During the next two years, I split my time at the clinic doing sexual health education with patients and researching pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) usage in adolescents.

From there, I had enough experiential evidence to know that public health was the right health field for me. I parsed out that what I most loved doing was working with big scale data and resources, while keeping a population—or people—perspective. A public health education is perfect for this interest level, and I'm really enjoying myself in the public health program at Hopkins so far.

***Do you have any advice for fellows who are thinking about entering a similar career field to a research coordinator?***

A research coordinator takes care of many aspects of the research project but doesn't necessarily have the power to change big picture ideas about the research and doesn't get to direct the research in the same way that the PI does. Keep that in mind before committing to a position.

A lot of the time, these positions are stepping-stones to other higher-level positions. This is true for me and many other research coordinators I know. These positions are really useful to develop public health skills and to prove to future bosses that you can contribute significantly to a research project.

***Do you have any advice for fellows who are thinking about pursuing an MPH degree?***

Make sure the institutions you apply to have faculty with research interests that overlap with yours. As part of the coursework, you'll work closely with a faculty member, and it's important to have a project you're passionate about.

If you have questions for Miles, please contact him at [Miles.a.oliva@gmail.com](mailto:Miles.a.oliva@gmail.com).



## NICHD Lunchtime Workshop Recap: Academic Jobs

By Anika Prabhu, PhD

On August 6, 2018, the NICHD Office of Education held an informal lunchtime workshop with three junior faculty members about the academic job interview process. The speakers included:

- » **Dr. Stephanie Cologna**, former NICHD fellow and assistant professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago
- » **Dr. Kevin Francis**, former NICHD fellow and assistant professor and assistant scientist at the University of South Dakota
- » **Dr. Laura Sanchez**, assistant professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago

Below is a summary of the questions and key points discussed during the workshop.

### THE APPLICATION PROCESS

#### *How do I find positions?*

Look widely for job advertisements. Sites such as [HigherEdJobs.com](https://www.higheredjobs.com) or [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) are useful sources, as well as scientific societies in your field. Utilize your network by letting your colleagues and mentors know that you are on the job market so they can inform you of any open positions they come across.

#### *Any tips for developing my application packet?*

Apply for grants such as the NIH K99 (Pathway to Independence) Award. Even if you aren't awarded the grant, writing the grant and receiving feedback will be a valuable experience in developing your application. Ask your colleagues, including PIs, to look over your research proposals and research statements.

Make your CV easy to read. Include Pubmed links to your publications. Also, list any manuscripts in preprint or under review/revision.

#### *How many positions should I apply to?*

The three speakers applied to 10 to 20 schools each. But there is no magic formula—be realistic about your chances and identify the institutes where you will be competitive.



From L to R: Dr. Stephanie Cologna, Dr. Laura Sanchez and Dr. Kevin Francis at the NICHD Academic Career Workshop.

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## Lunchtime Workshop Recap: Academic Jobs

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### THE INTERVIEW PROCESS

#### ***What does the interview typically involve?***

Often there is a pre-screening interview—via phone or Skype—that typically includes members of your search committee. During this first interview, you can clarify some important questions you may have. You should do your research about the school and department before this meeting, and be aware of critical topics like the cost of running your lab, to be sure you and the department are a good match.

Then, typically, there are two full days for the on-site visit. During this time, you will likely give a one-hour seminar on your research and a one-hour chalk talk. The on-site visit is a tiring process with meetings throughout the day as well as during dinner. Be ready!

#### ***What is the chalk talk?***

The chalk talk is an opportunity to outline your potential research program and describe how you will execute your proposal. It can include a PowerPoint presentation or a whiteboard/blackboard lecture, for which you should arrive early to write or draw the key points ahead of time. Typically, you should design your chalk talk as a 20-minute presentation. With questions from the audience, it may run for about one hour. You can describe the major findings from your work, but ultimately you are describing two to three fundable projects that will build on your work. The workshop speakers stressed the importance of highlighting how you plan to take your field in a new direction.

#### ***What tips can you share for preparing for an interview?***

Practice! And practice in front of a broad audience, as the selection committee members are unlikely to be experts in your field. Become comfortable with the audience freely interjecting during your talk to ask questions. Be prepared to defend your ability to carry out the research projects and answer questions related to:

- » Potential funding mechanisms
- » Who will carry out the work
- » What tools from your postdoctoral work you will be allowed to bring over
- » The validity of proposed assays

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## Lunchtime Workshop Recap: Academic Jobs

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### *What fatal mistakes do interviewees make?*

At the application stage, deal breakers include submitting an application late, absent or late reference letters, not reading the job ad, and not tailoring your application to the position.

At the interview stage, being unprepared or being rude to members of the selection committee or administrative staff are easy ways to put you out of contention.

### **ACCEPTING AN OFFER AND SETTING UP**

#### *What happens after I get an offer?*

You can still ask more questions and negotiate the offer in terms of salary, office space, equipment, moving costs, starting dates, etc. before accepting.\*

#### *What have been the main challenges in the first years of starting your lab?*

The budgeting of the lab and administrative duties are challenging. Also, it is not always easy to step away from the bench and hire good people to carry out the vision of your lab.

#### *How can I prepare for running my own lab now?*

Supervising summer students and/or postdocs and running journal clubs will give you experience with managing and mentoring your own small team. Towards the end of your postdoc, walk around the lab, make a list of essential lab reagents and equipment, and identify the costs of these to develop your budget. Be mindful of expensive service contracts for equipment. You may also need to budget items such as computers, desks, and chairs.

The NIH Office of Intramural Training and Education also runs several workshops, such as the Workplace Dynamics series, that teach essential management skills.

\*Check out our [recent article on job negotiations!](#)



## A Warm Welcome to Our 2018 Incoming Clinical Fellows

*The NICHD Connection* would like to introduce our newest group of clinical fellows who arrived this summer. Welcome to the family!

### INTER-INSTITUTE ENDOCRINOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM



**Maziar Rahmani, MD, PhD**  
Residency: Providence  
Hospital affiliated to  
George Washington  
University Hospital



**Skand Shekhar, MD**  
Residency: Saint Peter's  
University Hospital

### PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM



**Anna Zenno, MD**  
Residency: UMMS-  
Baystate Medical Center



**Chelsi Flippo, MD**  
Residency: Jersey Shore  
University Medical

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## A Warm Welcome to Our 2018 Incoming Clinical Fellows

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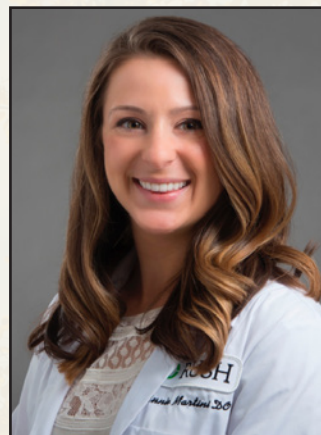
### REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY AND INFERTILITY TRAINING PROGRAM



**Olivia Carpinello, MD**  
Residency: University of Connecticut



**Anthony DeAngelis, MD, PhD**  
Residency: Western Connecticut Health Network



**Anne Martini, DO**  
Residency: Rush University Medical Center

## Meet Our New Fellows

We are happy to welcome new fellows to the NICHD family. If you arrived recently at the NICHD and would like us to introduce you in our quarterly "Meet Our New Fellows" column, please contact our editor, Dr. Shana Spindler, at [Shana.Spindler@gmail.com](mailto:Shana.Spindler@gmail.com).



**HELGA DE OLIVEIRA MIGUEL, PhD**  
*Postdoctoral Fellow*

**Home city:** Lisbon, Portugal

**Graduate school:** University of Minho, Braga, Portugal

**NICHD mentor:** Dr. Amir Gandjbakhche

**Area of research:** I study trajectories of brain function in typically developing infants and infants at risk of neurodevelopmental disorders, using functional near-infrared spectroscopy and electroencephalogram.



## The Rep Report

By Suna Gulay, PhD

As the current NICHD Basic Sciences Institutes and Centers (IC) Representative, I represent NICHD postdoctoral fellows at the FelCom meeting every month and share the latest news with you here. Do you have a concern or question that you want brought up at the next meeting? Contact me at [suna.gulay@nih.gov](mailto:suna.gulay@nih.gov)!



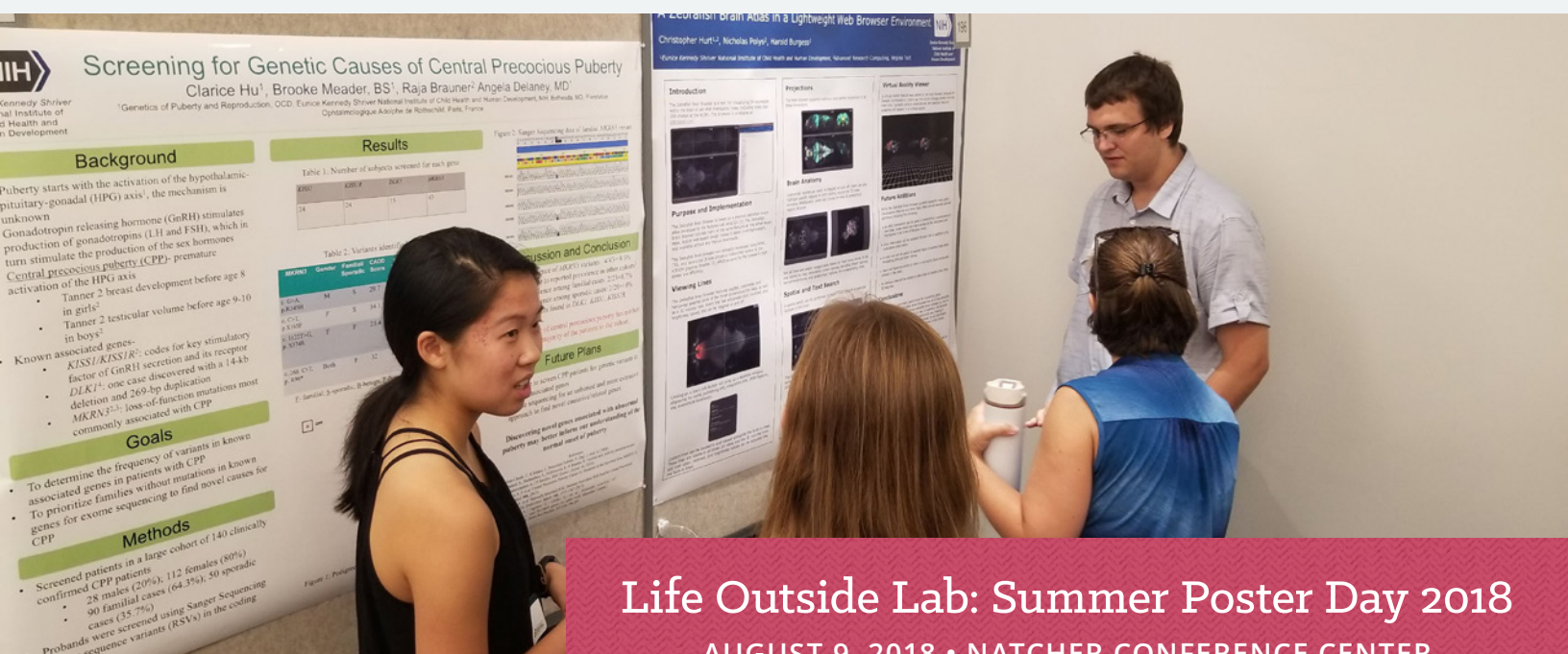
FelCom elected a new Basic Sciences Co-Chair in August: Congratulations to Dr. Katherine Reding of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Katherine has been a long time FelCom officer, as well as the NIMH IC Rep, and as such, she is very invested in improving the communication between IC representatives and fellows. As a reminder, you may always contact me to learn how FelCom can help improve your training experience here at NIH. Alternatively, join us for a meeting and see for yourself! We meet every first Thursday of the month (except July) at 4 p.m. in Building 1 Wilson Hall.

Changes to the trainee health insurance are coming up in November, as reported on [this column](#) in July. **FAES will hold daily insurance orientations September 10 and 21 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Building 10 FAES Conference Room 1N241A.** Upcoming changes will be discussed, so please attend to see how you are affected.

Fall brings with it new opportunities to join committees and gain leadership experience. The Career Development and Mentoring Subcommittees of FelCom are looking for new members:

- » The Career Development Subcommittee offers excellent opportunities for expanding your network and organizing panels based on your career interests. Please contact me or my co-chair, **Fany Messanvi** ([kokoefany.messanvi@nih.gov](mailto:kokoefany.messanvi@nih.gov)), to join, or come to our next meeting on October 4 at 3 p.m. in Building 2, Room 2W15.
- » The importance of mentors throughout your career is indisputable. The Mentoring Subcommittee aims to improve mentor-mentee relationships. It organizes related training events regularly. Please contact the co-chairs **Gloria Laryea** ([gloria.laryea@nih.gov](mailto:gloria.laryea@nih.gov)) and **Fei Mo** ([fei.mo@nih.gov](mailto:fei.mo@nih.gov)) for more information or to join.
- » Many other subcommittees, including the Service and Outreach Subcommittee, have new co-chairs and are starting to plan their events for the year. Explore the various subcommittees through the FelCom webpage: <https://www.training.nih.gov/felcom>.

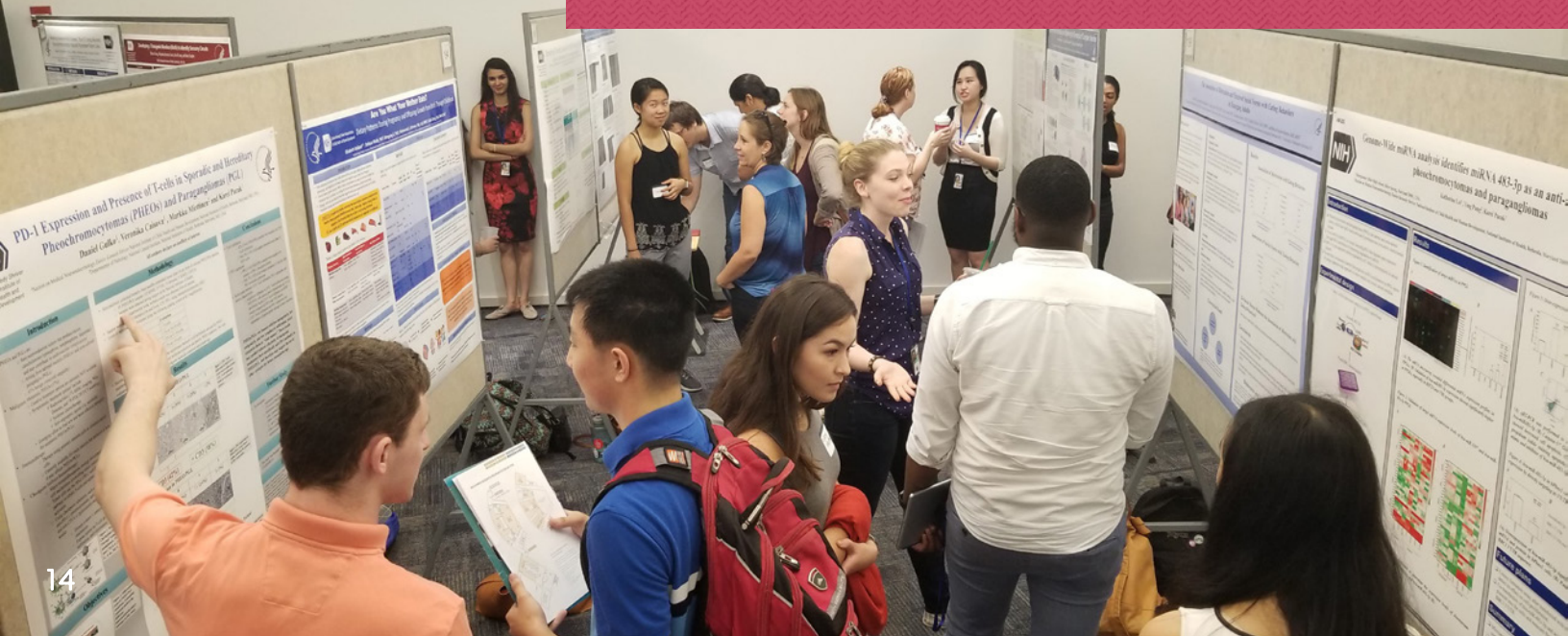




## Life Outside Lab: Summer Poster Day 2018

AUGUST 9, 2018 • NATCHER CONFERENCE CENTER

Summer students show off what they learned during their time at the NIH





## Upcoming NIH-Wide Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) Events

For more information and registration, please visit [Upcoming OITE Events](#).

**OITE Orientation for New NIH Postbacs: Getting What You Came For**  
(September 4)

**Academic Job Search: Applying** (September 7)

**Journaling for Resilience and Self-Care for Grad Students & Postdocs**  
(September 7)

**Journaling for Resilience and Self-Care for Postbacs** (September 7)

**Workplace Dynamics V: Diversity in a Multicultural Society** (September 12)

**Becoming a Resilient Scientist** (September 17)

**FELCOM Event: Careers in Grant Administration** (September 17)

**Scientists Teaching Science 2-Hour Workshop** (September 18)

**Speaking Up: How to Ask for What You Need in the Lab and in Life**  
(September 18)

**Ethics in Research Training for Postdocs** (September 21)

**Ethics in Research Training for Postbacs and Grad Students** (September 24)

**Scientists Teaching Science Online 9-Week Pedagogy Course** (Begins  
September 24)

**Workplace Dynamics I/II: Self-Awareness, the Key to Professional Success**  
(September 26)

**Tune in and Take Care: Managing Stress and Promoting Wellbeing**  
(September 28)



## September Announcements

### NICHD FELLOWS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!

The Office of Education formed an advisory committee in 2016, and we are seeking several more dedicated members to help us develop and initiate academic support programs for the institute. Both domestic and visiting fellows are needed. We want to achieve a broad representation, culturally and academically, so we can address the needs of all our trainees at NICHD. The committee meets monthly to exchange ideas and informally discuss ways we can enhance and tailor the training experience within the NICHD intramural program.

Some potential topics for our committee are how to:

- » Increase the participation for training activities
- » Expose fellows to various careers in science
- » Identify teaching opportunities and internal and external research funding mechanisms
- » Establish a structure for sharing scientific and career resources within the institute

***\*New this year, the advisory committee will also steer the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual NICHD Fellows' Retreat, to be held in Spring 2019.***

This includes developing the agenda/program, inviting speakers, reviewing abstracts, selecting fellow/student presenters, and moderating some of the sessions—it's a great service opportunity, plus you'll get to be part of the team that plans our biggest annual event for fellows!

Don't miss this opportunity to serve your intramural NICHD community.

***The committee meets once a month on Thursdays, from 3–5 p.m.*** Our Fall dates are listed below:

- » September 6
- » October 18
- » November 8
- » December 6

Please contact Dr. Erin Walsh at [erin.walsh@nih.gov](mailto:erin.walsh@nih.gov) if you are interested in joining the group.

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## September Announcements

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### NIH SCIENCE POLICY DISCUSSION GROUP NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Applications to join the Science Policy Discussion Group (SPDG) are due on **Monday, September 17**.

The goal of this fellow-led organization is to enhance members' knowledge of science policy and issues relevant to the current scientific, political and socioeconomic climate. Meetings are on the **first and third Wednesday of the month (October–June) from 4–5 p.m.** This year, the first few meetings will be led by invited speakers working in science policy, while the remaining sessions will be small-group discussions on specific policy topics.

Members of the SPDG will be expected to:

- » Give an introductory presentation on a selected topic, as part of a small group
- » Plan and host one session on their selected topic, as part of a small group
- » Read assigned materials and actively participate in discussions
- » Contribute an essay to the [Science Policy for All blog](#)

For more information, and application submission please visit:

<https://www.training.nih.gov/spdg>.

Additional questions can be sent to SPDG co-chairs Agnes Donko ([agnes.donko@nih.gov](mailto:agnes.donko@nih.gov)), Allison Dennis ([allison.dennis@nih.gov](mailto:allison.dennis@nih.gov)), and Patrick Wright ([patrick.wright@nih.gov](mailto:patrick.wright@nih.gov)).

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## September Announcements

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### INTERESTED IN PURSUING A NON-ACADEMIC CAREER?

This fall, NICHD intramural, along with four other institutes, are launching a new career development program for postdocs and graduate students!



The Planning And Career Exploration (PACE) program will provide resources for you to explore different scientific careers, help you set achievable goals, and build networks for you to land your ideal job. PACE will consist of three workshops, followed by career site visits and a science administration career panel discussion:

#### **“Identify the Career for You and Learn How to Build Your Network”**

**Thursday, October 11, 10 a.m. – noon**

In this two-hour workshop, Drs. Faith Harrow (training director at NHGRI) and Yvette Pittman will introduce you to the career planning tools: My Individual Development Plan ([myIDP](#)) and Active Career Exploration ([ACE](#)). Using these tools, you will assess your skills, interests and values, see how they align with various career paths, and “build your network from zero”—all leading to career success.

#### **“Developing a Targeted Resume and Enhancing Your Networking Skills”**

**Monday, November 5, 10 – 11:30 a.m. & 1 – 2:30 p.m.**

Led by Lauren Celano of [Propel Careers](#), this workshop will help you create an effective resume that stands out to employers and write a tailored cover letter that includes information a hiring manager seeks. Lauren will provide tips on how to network effectively, follow up to make the most of your professional connections, and navigate conversations to keep the discussion flowing.

#### **“Build Your Professional Brand with LinkedIn”**

**Friday, December 14, 12 – 4 p.m.**

[Kelly Leonard’s](#) workshop will take you through how to effectively market yourself to potential employers by creating a winning LinkedIn profile. You will also learn how to build working relationships within the LinkedIn professional community and identify prospective employers and employment opportunities.

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## September Announcements

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### INTERESTED IN PURSUING A NON-ACADEMIC CAREER? (CONTINUED)

#### Site Visits: Explore Diverse Biomedical Career Paths (January – April 2019)

Visit up to four different career sites, which will be selected based on the interests of participating fellows (e.g. industry, science policy, regulatory affairs, and science communications). You will have the opportunity to learn about the culture and values of the organization, tour the facilities, and participate in a networking session with current employees.



#### Panel Discussion: Careers in Science Administration (May 2019)

During this panel discussion, learn about careers in science policy, communication, technology transfer, and grants management from four professionals working in these areas.

The NICHD Office of Education will select seven applicants to participate in this program. Please complete the online application (link below) if you are interested in the PACE program.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018PACEProgram>

*The application deadline for the 2018–2019 PACE program is Tuesday, September 11.*

Feel free to email either Dr. Yvette Pittman ([yvette.pittman@nih.gov](mailto:yvette.pittman@nih.gov)) or Dr. Erin Walsh ([erin.walsh@nih.gov](mailto:erin.walsh@nih.gov)) if you have any questions about the application or selection process.

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## September Events

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM**

**NICHD DIR & DIPHR Scientific Retreat**

Masur Auditorium and FAES Terrace

We strongly encourage all intramural researchers—PIs and lab members—to attend as we celebrate our achievements and spark new collaborations. Apart from an exciting line-up of talks, every lab will have the chance to present at least one poster.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 3 – 4 PM**

**NICHD Fellows Advisory Committee Meeting**

The committee meets monthly to exchange ideas and informally discuss ways we can enhance and tailor the training experience within the NICHD intramural program (see [September Announcements](#) for more information). Please contact Dr. Erin Walsh at [erin.walsh@nih.gov](mailto:erin.walsh@nih.gov) if you are interested in joining the group.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 12 – 1 PM**

**NICHD Postbac Orientation Session & Pizza Lunch**

Building 31, Room 2A48

Our institute has approximately 50 postbacs conducting both clinical and basic science research. We would like to bring our postbacs together to meet each other and discuss volunteer and training opportunities on campus. Learn about:

- » ICU simulator rounds
- » The annual postbac course
- » Genetics clinic shadowing
- » Children's Inn volunteer opportunities
- » And more!

The NICHD Office of Education aims to enrich fellows' NIH experience with career development, outreach, and social activities. If you would like to attend this informational event, please contact Dr. Yvette Pittman at [yvette.pittman@nih.gov](mailto:yvette.pittman@nih.gov).

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## September Events

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WEDNESDAY – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 – 14, ALL DAY

**NIH Research Festival 2018**

Building 10

This annual event brings together researchers from across all NIH institutes for a multi-day opportunity to share research findings and form new collaborations. The general schedule of events and plenary session topics are available at <https://researchfestival.nih.gov/2018>.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

**Fellows Social Networking (FSN) Event**

[Tapp'd](#), a local restaurant in Bethesda

This is a great opportunity for the NICHD fellows' community to socialize and network with each other **(with good food!)** in an enjoyable environment. All current trainees within the institute are welcome.

Please send Dr. Yvette Pittman ([yvette.pittman@nih.gov](mailto:yvette.pittman@nih.gov)) a quick note if you plan to attend this event.

